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SCOWCROFT
L.L.

*****U R G E N T

MIDEAST--LEAD EGYPT

CAIRO, OCT. 31, REUTER--EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SAID TODAY ONE OF THE REASONS HE ACCEPTED U.N. CEASEFIRE WAS THAT "I WAS NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT THE UNITED STATES."

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE: "I HAVE FOUGHT ISRAEL FOR 11 DAYS. . .BUT I AM NOT READY TO FIGHT AMERICA."

SADAT DESCRIBED THE PRESENT STAND OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AS "CONSTRUCTIVE."

HE SAID HE IS AWAITING THE VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGVER ON NOV. 6 FOR TWO DAYS.

SADAT SAID ISRAEL HAD LOST 500 TANKS IN SINAI IN THE FIRST ELEVEN DAYS OF FIGHTING, WHICH STARTED ON OCT. 6.

HE SAID ISRAEL HAD ALSO LOST A LARGE NUMBER OF PLANES DURING THAT PERIOD.

SADAT SAID ISRAEL'S MILITARY STRENGTH WOULD HAVE ONLY LASTED 14 DAYS BEFORE THE UNITED STATES "OPENED ITS ARSENAL TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH WEAPONS."

MORE WRM/JK0609